

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EURE-00 /058 W  
-----122047Z 072201 /72

P R 121554Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 274  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
USMISSION NATO  
USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3724

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SP  
SUBJECT: DON JUAN TO CEDE HIS RIGHTS TO JUAN CARLOS

1. IN THE WAKE OF PERSISTENT RUMORS, A PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED BY DON JUAN'S HOUSEHOLD HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL "RENOUNCE HIS HISTORIC RIGHTS" IN FAVOR OF JUAN CARLOS " AT AN EARLY DATE" AT THE ZARZUELA PALACE. ACCORDING TO ALL REPORTS THE CERMONY WILL TAKE PLACE PRIVATELY ON MAY 14. THE MOVE WHICH THE MONARCHIST "ABC" RECALLED BOTH MEN HAD ALWAYS SAID WOULD COME WHEN IT WAS IN SPAIN'S INTEREST IS FAR FROM UNEXPECTED, THOUGH MANY HAD THOUGH DON JUAN WOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS.

2. IN THE ONLY MEDIA COMMENT TO APPEAR SO FAR, THE  
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LIBERAL LEFT "EL PAIS" PRAISED DON JUAN (WHO IS TO RETAIN THE TITLE OF COUNT OF BARCELONA) FOR HAVING SERVD "FOR THIRTY YEARS AS THE SYMBOL OF THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE CROWN", AND RECALLED HIS RESISTENCE TO FRANCO. INCLUDING HIS REFUSAL TO ABDICATE OR TO LET THE MONARCHY BECOME A TOOL OF THE FRANCO REGIME. NOT INT THAT SOME WILL SAY THE CESSION OF DYNASTIC RIGHTS

SHOULD HAVE COME EARLIER (I.E. RIGHT AFTER THE REFERENDUM APPROVING THE POLITICAL REFORM LAW) AND OTHERS WILL SAY THAT THE PRESENT MOMENT, WITH ITS ELECTORAL CONFUSION AND MANEUVERING, IS IMOPPORTUNE, "EL PAIS" CONCLUDES, "LET US SAY THAT THE COUNT OF BARCELONA HAS GIVEN ABUNDANT PROOF OF POLITICAL PERSPICATITY AND PRUDENCE IN THE LENGTH OF THE EXTENED PERIOD WHICH PRECEDES US, AND THAT THE COUNTRY WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO HIM NOT ONLY FOR HIS PERSONAL DIGNITY BUT ALSO FOR THE IMMENSE SERVICE HE HAS LENT TO SPANISH SOCIETY, CONTRIBUTING TO THE SEARCH FOR A FORMULA WHICH HAS AVOIDED FRANCO'S SUCCESSION ENDING IN A TRAGIC COMIC REPUBLIC OF SALO (CREATED BRIEFLY BY MUSSOLINI AFTER HIS RESCUE BY THE GERMANS), OR IN AN ANTO DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY".

3. COMMENT: THE KING AND HIS FATHER HAVE APPARENTLY ENJOYED A CLOSE, WARM FATHER SON RELATIONSHIP DESPITE THE FACT THAT FRANCO USED THE SON TO DISPLACE DON JUAN FROM ANY CHANCE TO THE MONARCHY. THEY HAVE OCCASIONALLY DIFFERED ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS, BUT IT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE AFFECTED THE REALTIONSHIP. FOR QUITE SOME TIME IT HAS BEEN APPARENT THAT DON JUAN WAS ONLY WAITING THE APPROPRIATE MOMENT TO RENOUNCE HIS RIGHTS) HE NEVER CLAIMED HE WAS MONARCH AND THUS NO ABDICATION IS INVOLVED). GENERAL SPECULATION HAD BEEN THAT HE WOULD RENOUNCE IT AFTER THE ELECTIONS BUT APPARENTLY IT WILL NOW COME THIS WEEKEND. IT BEARS REPEATING THAT IN TODAYS SPAIN NEITHER THE

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DESIGNATION BY FRANCO NOR THE RENUNCIATION OF RIGHTS OF DON JUAN CAN CONFER LASTING LEGITMACY UPON THE SPANISH MONARCHY. A PROCESS THAT CAN ONLY BEACHIEVED THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSTITUTAIONAL MONARCHY ALONG EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC LINES, SOMETHING THAT THE KING HAS OBVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED FROM THE BEGINNING NOETHELESS, IT CLEARS UP THE RESIDUAL DYNASTIC QUESTION AND IS A SYMBOL OF HOW FAR SPAIN HAS COME, SINCE DON JUAN HAS LONG BEEN AND ADVOCATE OF A DEMOCRATIC MONARCHY PRECISELY THE REASON THAT CAUSED FRANCO TO PUSH HIM ASIDE.STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KING, MONARCHY, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** DON JUAN TO CEDE HIS RIGHTS TO JUAN CARLOS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SP, (JUAN, DON), (CARLOS, JUAN)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009